FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 216 *7 November 1978*

ARGENTINA

New Ministers Sworn In by Videla on 6 November B 1
Pastor Promises To Continue Current Foreign Policy Line B 1
Ambassador to Chile Returns for Consultations B 1
HERALD Scores Decision To Increase Number of Itaipu Turbines [5 Nov] B 1
Armed Forces Communique Reinforces Reservists' Job Benefits B 2

BOLIVIA

New Cabinet Members Announced; Pereda Addresses Ceremony C 1
Members of New Cabinet Named C 1
Pereda Addresses New Ministers C 1
Pereda, Armed Forces Commanders Inspect Chilean Border Area C 4
Details Given of Officers Antiregime Movement C 4

BRAZIL

President Urged To Heed Nuclear Committee Findings D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 2 Nov]
PRC Mission Signs Agreement on Steel Purchases D 2
[O GLOBO 2 Nov]
Communist Leader Urges People To Vote for MDB D 4
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 4 Nov]

COLOMBIA

Army Dismantles EPL Urban Guerrilla Group F 1
Sandinist Refugees Arrive at San Andres Island F 2
House Approves Marine Treaties With Dominican Republic F 2
Briefs: Administrative Decentralization Council F 2

ECUADOR

Defense Front Denounces Peruvian 'Provocations' G 1
Further Details G 1
Communist Party Wants Investigation Into Bribery Charge G 1

PANAMA

Royo Urges Chile, Argentina To Reach Peaceful Solution N 1
Revolutionary Party Organizers Outline Plans N 1
[MATUTINO 1 Nov]
Briefs: Death of Ambassador N 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Price Defends Management of Public Funds P 1
[THE BELIZE TIMES 29 Oct]

COSTA RICA

Foreign Vessels Fishing Illegally To Be Seized as of January P 2
Imprisoned Sandinists Demand Transfer to Panama P 3
Presence of Guerrillas in Northern Region Denied P 3
Security Minister Reports on Latest Guerrilla Arrests P 3
Briefs: Malaria Cases P 4

EL SALVADOR

Guatemalan President To Attend Fair in San Salvador P 4
FPL Murders Textile Industrialist P 4

GUATEMALA

Eight Killed in Clashes Throughout Nation P 4
Briefs: PRC Trade Mission's Visit P 5

HONDURAS

Business, Labor Leaders Pleased Over Junta Support P 5
Report on New 5-Year Development Plan P 5
Briefs: BCIE Loan P 6

NICARAGUA

Somoza Meets With Cabinet To Discuss 1979 Programs P 6
Government Extends Business Aid Program to Entire Country P 6
Liberal Party Answer to FAO Proposal Termed 'Conciliatory' P 7
Socialist Party Withdraws From Opposition Coalition P 7
New President of Military Court Assumes Duties P 8
Somoza Reportedly Seeking Archbishop's Replacement P 8
Colombia Grants Asylum to Sister of FSLN Members P 9
Briefs: Road Construction Loan P 9

CUBA

Cubans in Mexico Support Dialog Proposed by Castro Q 1
Document Reveals Canecutters' Wage Scale Q 1
Assistance Being Provided to Sao Tome and Principe Q 2
Rodriguez Receives CEMA Chemical Industry Delegates Q 2
53d CEMA Chemical Industry Meeting Concludes Q 2
Valdes Menendez Receives Iraqi Industry Deputy Minister Q 2

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

Controls on Trade With Communist Countries Lifted S 1
[ADVOCATE-NEWS 31 Oct]

HAITI

President Duvalier Makes Important Government Changes S 2

JAMAICA

Path Clear for Increased Trade With Cuba S 2
[DAILY GLEANER 1 Nov]
JPL Deputy Chairman Urges PNP To Postpone Byelections S 2
[DAILY GLEANER 3 Nov]

NEW MINISTERS SWORN IN BY VIDELA ON 6 NOVEMBER

Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Nov 78 PY

[Summary] At noon today in the White Room of government house, President Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla swore in the following ministers: air force Maj Gen Carlos Washington Pastor (ret) as minister of foreign affairs and worship; Alberto Rodriguez Varela as justice minister; Rear Adm David Horacio de la Riva (ret) as defense minister; Juan Llerena Amadeo as culture and education minister; and Rear Adm Jorge Alberto Fraga (ret) as social welfare minister.

PASTOR PROMISES TO CONTINUE CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY LINE

PY062044Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2030 GMT 6 Nov 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 6 Nov--The new foreign minister, Maj Gen Carlos Washington Pastor (ret), stated today that he will follow the line set by his predecessor, Vice Adm Oscar Montes. He made this statement upon assuming his duties at San Martin Palace.

"I will continue the line set by my predecessor and I trust that you will continue cooperating as you have done until now," Foreign Minister Pastor told Foreign Ministry department heads who came to greet him in the presence of newsmen.

AMBASSADOR TO CHILE RETURNS FOR CONSULTATIONS

PY070011Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2340 GMT 6 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Nov (NA)--The Argentine Foreign Ministry reported tonight that Gen Hugo Miatello (ret), Argentine ambassador to Chile, has been called back to Buenos Aires to report on some issues regarding his activities in Santiago.

The report adds that General Miatello is scheduled to return to Santiago tomorrow.

HERALD SCORES DECISION TO INCREASE NUMBER OF ITAIPU TURBINES

PY061216Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 5 Nov 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Unfriendly Act"]

[Text] The decision of the Brazilian and Paraguayan governments to increase the number of turbines in the gigantic Itaipu hydroelectric complex from 18 to 20 has done nothing to improve the chances of satisfactory agreement on the exploitation of the River Parana being reached. On the contrary, it has undone what progress has been achieved to this end in the tripartite talks among Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Whatever the technical justifications for the increase--and the two extra turbines are allegedly to serve as backups in case any of the 18 to be used fail--the fact remains that an important modification in the Itaipu project was made without any attempt to consult with Argentina, which is directly involved because Itaipu, just north of its frontier, controls the flow of its greatest river and potential hydroelectric resource.

Itaipu is a technical, engineering, and administrative triumph that will give the Brazilian economy a large boost and has already transformed the prospects of Paraguay. [paragraph continues]

But it is also a political fact of the first magnitude, and the Brazilian Government clearly understands it as such. It is for this reason that work on the huge dam has been pursued with unfaltering vigour even though other large-scale projects in Brazil have been cut back because of the deterioration of the economic climate. Brazil, quite obviously, wants to get the dam finished as quickly as possible not just because it could do with the extra energy, but because it wants to present Argentina with an accomplished fact that cannot be changed.

Guarding the nation's interests where the Parana is concerned has always been an uphill task for Argentine governments, and as much has been lost by default as by any act of Brazil. The Brazilian Government has persistently done its best to appropriate as large a share of the energy locked in the Parana as possible--just as the Argentine governments should have done. It is worth recalling that the treaty between Brazil and Paraguay agreeing to build Itaipu was signed in 1973, and since then the dam has become a formidable reality. The Argentine-Paraguayan Yacyreta project, on the other hand, was discussed for several decades before work began, and if the rhythm of the past is to persist, Corpus is unlikely to be built this century.

The addition of two extra turbines to Itaipu was the result of pressure from Brazilian business groups and the Mines and Energy Ministry who, according to reports in Brazilian newspapers, wanted to upset the negotiations with this country in order to prevent the project being delayed in the interests of diplomatic understanding. Their impatience was understandable, because the endless nitpicking of these negotiations is naturally infuriating to men engaged in more practical concerns. But it was very shortsighted. If Itaipu is completed with the willing acquiescence of the Argentine Government and is in harmony with the other hydroelectric projects downstream, then it will not be the source of any resentment in Brazil's main neighbour. If it is finished while ostentatiously ignoring Argentina's right to be seriously consulted about its size and form, then it will generate bad feelings as well as electricity for very many years.

ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUE REINFORCES RESERVISTS' JOB BENEFITS

PY041428Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0745 GMT 4 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Nov--The joint chiefs of staff have released the following communique:

Regarding the final exercises taking place as ordered by the armed forces, which include the partial callup of the reserves, employers and employees are hereby informed regarding those citizens recruited that during the recruitment period employers must act in accordance with labor law Article No 231.

Article 231 reads as follows:

The employer will maintain the employee's job when said employee enters into compulsory military service, i.e., ordinary recruitment, mobilization or special recruitment, from the date of the callup until 30 days after its conclusion.

The time in service will be considered as working days so the employee will not lose his seniority benefits under the law, under professional statutes or under collective labor contracts to which the employee would be entitled if on the job. The time in military service will not be taken into account when establishing the average amounts of salaries.

NEW CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCED; PEREDA ADDRESSES CEREMONY

Members of New Cabinet Named

PY0701111 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Nov 78 PY

[Live relay from government house]

[Excerpts] In 15 minutes, President Juan Pereda will administer the oath of office to the new cabinet which will govern with him during the second stage of his government.

Five ministers were confirmed in their posts. They are: Ricardo Anaya, minister of foreign affairs and worship; Faustino Rico Toro, minister of interior, immigration and justice; Walter Castro Avendano, minister of national defense; Guillermo Escobar, minister of agriculture and compesino affairs; and Jorge Tamayo Ramos, minister of finance.

The new ministers are: Ronald McLean, planning and coordination; Rear Adm Fernando Guillen Montes, transport, communications and civil aviation; Lt Col Jose Quiroz Antequera, labor and labor development; Col Jorge Echazu, mining and metallurgy; Col Humberto Cayoja Ricrt, education and culture; Col Natalio Morales (Mosquera), industry and commerce; Col Lucio Anez (Rivera), urban development and housing; Lt Col David Fernandez Viscarra, energy and hydrocarbons; Lt Col Luis Kuramoto Medina, social security and public health; and Dr Luis Fernando Valle Quevedo, secretary general of the presidency.

Pereda Addresses New Ministers

PY0702502 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Nov 78 PY

[Speech at government house in La Paz by Bolivian President Juan Pereda Asbun after swearing in new cabinet--live]

[Excerpts] Fellow Bolivians: Today we begin a new stage in the process of establishing democracy in Bolivia which is characterized by more open and direct participation in government by the armed forces--a participation which is based on the need for political authorities who are impartial to politics and who are able to guarantee the free expression of popular will in the formation of the government.

It is the belief of the majority of Bolivians that the armed forces have the responsibility of leading the democratization process beyond sectarian or partisan positions.

This is the nature of the armed forces because they represent the entire nation, all sectors of the people.

The concept of democracy encompasses all aspects of society. This is the foundation for the development which the country demands. This development is a (?specific) program whose historic significance goes beyond the limits of a simple election campaign.

When we said in July that the main objective of the government was to build a democratic society, we were talking about an overall process designed to modify restrictions and obstacles to man's freedom in his economic, political and cultural activities.

The challenge of our times derives from problems which exist within and outside our country. We have before us events which influence our present and our future. To say that the present situation is critical and conflictive is no exaggeration. The economy is not precisely at the best level of growth. In the social field, there are still problems which were long ago overcome by more developed countries. As for the political situation, the drain on both theoretical and organic work is quite obvious.

The lifting of restrictive orders and mechanisms which did not enable citizens to confront reality has led the Bolivian people to see their country as it actually is in all aspects. We now see our country with all its virtues and all its faults. In discovering this reality, we also discover that many attitudes and proposals are not precisely the most effective for this reality.

Instead of facing our problems decisively, there are still frictions, deceit and self-deceit, government enterprises which lack the necessary courage for self-criticism and opportune rectification, politicians and groups which believe they possess the eternal truth and individuals who act like supermen. This artificial and arbitrary framework distorts reality and causes the fatherland to lose its perspective.

The Bolivian people must rest assured that the peace, tranquillity and order which comprise the essence of democracy will be firmly guarded. We will not tolerate in any way whatsoever excesses, anarchy and lack of discipline by certain backward groups which endanger with worthless answers our eminently democratic positions. [applause]

This is the proper time to clearly state that the government will solve, in accordance with its revolutionary principles, those problems which arise (?during) its administration, and that we will not disregard the adoption of the measures required to safeguard the future of the fatherland.

The government has all the capability and legitimacy to make those decisions which because of their nature are proper to all the governments of the world. It is absurd, therefore, to limit the action of any government on the basis of the length of time it will remain in power. To say that the measures of a certain government will be exclusively circumscribed during those years that the government is in power is a historical aberration. It is a sociological mistake which cannot resist the slightest analysis.

Our desire is that the people may participate in both decisionmaking and discussion of problems. Consequently, the first objective of our program is to achieve national unity in order to face current domestic and foreign problems. [applause]

The second essential aspect, what we could call the outline of a government program, is that democratization will continue, despite the despair of extremist provocations, despite the reaction of vicious extremism, and my government will continue building a true democracy which will lead to free, responsible and just elections. [applause]

Considering the efforts, renunciations and sacrifices demanded by this democratic revolution we are experiencing, I call on all of society to join efforts to achieve and improve the conditions for peace, democracy and dignity which are necessary today.

I declare that no individual structure is capable of building a true, lasting and persistent democracy. This is the time to achieve national unity which may meet the demands of democracy. I find that it is possible to have a broad consensus around the norms regulating the activity of all of us who participate in the democratic constitutionalization of the country.

It must be clearly established that the essential objective of my government is the democratic constitutionalization of the country. The other measures I have announced will be implemented to make this objective feasible, and not to irresponsibly transfer our present problems to the next government. [applause].

Among the different tasks we will carry out to hold constitutional elections, we will issue within a few days the legal dispositions which will cancel the previous electoral registry and implement a new registry which will avoid past errors and abuses.

First of all, state enterprises will be adjusted both in their organization and in their function. These structures are the necessary and unavoidable basis for effective development of the country in view of the current national and international situation.

Without proper management of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, the Bolivian Development Corporation and the National Power Enterprise, etc.--that is, of the strategic economic units--it would be very difficult to change the country's prospects for security and legal rights. State enterprises must function effectively, as required by their social nature.

Regarding national security, it is obvious that the armed forces are influenced by the media, but it is also evident that the country's overall situation depends to a large degree on the strength and quality of the armed forces. Therefore, finding solutions to the problems affecting the armed forces is a priority program, and all essential problems of the country should be given priority attention.

In this regard, we should point out as many times as necessary that unity of the armed forces is the basis of national unity, and that because we belong to the armed forces, we must seek unity as our first task, our highest obligation; we must strengthen brotherhood and improve all mechanisms of solidarity and cooperation which are essential to make the institutions strong and respectable.

Concerning the international situation, it has deteriorated. Our strength lies in defending peace, justice and the principles which support the new awareness of freedom. Nevertheless, based on our legitimate rights, on the vitality and honor of our people, there is nothing to prevent us from defending with bravery our territorial integrity, the heroic significance of the fatherland and our national dignity. [applause]

In accordance with the universal consensus and support for Bolivia--this support is expressed all over the world--the support for our struggle for a sovereign return to the Pacific is permanent and unrenounceable. [applause]

After fulfilling the tasks demanded by the constitutionalization process, our sincere desire is to relinquish government to a civilian movement which, by its democratic behavior, will win the elections and become the representative of true national interests. In the future, we need a government capable of leading the nation through the paths of its authentic nature and capable of maintaining a balanced social order.

PEREDA, ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS INSPECT CHILEAN BORDER AREA

PY061517Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Nov 78 PY

[Text] Bolivian President Juan Pereda Asbun, Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gen Angel Hugo Salmon, Army Commander in Chief Gen David Padilla and Air Force Commander in Chief Gen Jose Antonio Sempertegui inspected yesterday the area of the Chilean border where incursions of Chilean troops have been reported.

President Pereda visited Charana, Cosapa and the surrounding area where, according to local settlers, the Chileans have repeatedly violated Bolivian territory. An aircraft of the Bolivian Air Force overflew the area with the high-ranking officials aboard. The president and his entourage then landed in Charana, where local officials and representatives of civic organizations submitted a report on the repeated incidents taking place along the border. The report centered on last Wednesday's incursion by a Chilean patrol in the area of Cosapa, where it remained for approximately 30 minutes. This same patrol carried out two more incursions on Thursday. During these incursions, the patrol threatened settlers in the area, stating that the land on which they were living belongs to Chile. At that point, they were confronted by a Bolivian patrol. The commanders of the two patrols exchanged words and the Chilean patrol returned to its side of the border, marked by the (?Cajena) River. No new incursions have taken place since then.

The inhabitants of Charana requested arms and military protection. To this, President Pereda Asbun replied that the entire area is under the protection of the armed forces and he reminded them that the border with Chile is very long. Some of the people of Charana asked President Pereda for military training to help them protect national sovereignty in case of conflict. General Pereda promised to make a careful study of all these requests.

According to information gathered by the press in this area, Chilean patrols have been placing both real and imitation land mines along the border. It was also reported that Chile has four "Caiman" vehicles [armored personnel carriers] full of armed troops in the area of Cosapa Grande.

After ascertaining that tranquillity prevails and that there are no apparent problems, President Pereda Asbun overflew the area of Cosapa where the incidents took place last week.

DETAILS GIVEN OF OFFICERS ANTIREGIME MOVEMENT

PY031340Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Nov 78 PY

[Text] The officers of the armed forces who are accused of being involved in a subversive plot against the government belong to the Lt Col Gualberto Villarroel Military Institutionalist Movement [Movimiento Institutionalista Militar Teniente Coronel Gualberto Villarroel], whose objective is to oust the armed forces from political power.

In a [word indistinct] message, that military organization says the aim of the institutionalist movement in the armed forces is to give the country a legitimate government, to work for the separation of the armed forces from political power, to seek a thorough institutional and administrative moralization of the nation and to face with responsibility the serious problems of national security. The Lt Col Gualberto Villarroel Military Institutionalist Movement also expresses its particular gratitude for the [word indistinct] offer of the Bolivian Socialist Falange, which has announced that it will undertake the defense of the young officers who are accused of plotting against the government.

PRESIDENT URGED TO HEED NUCLEAR COMMITTEE FINDINGS

PY031828Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Nov 78 p 3 PY

[From "Notes and Information" page: "Denunciations Are To Be Acted Upon"]

[Text] As the activities of the congressional investigation committee which is looking into the implementation of the Brazilian nuclear program proceed, new facts are coming to light which confirm the existence of irregularities, the adoption of rash decisions and the total lack of a national energy program. Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, former ELETROBRAS [Brazilian Power Companies, Inc.] president, appeared before the committee day before yesterday and his statement nearly amounts to a condemnation of the nuclear program because he revealed the existence of a hydroelectric potential in the central-south region 30 percent higher than previously estimated. In view of this, Magalhaes stated his preference for a hydroelectric solution. At the same time, he asserted that sooner or later the Brazilian nuclear program would have to be reviewed and that the eight nuclear plants, which the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement provides for, will not be installed within the established timetable. Regarding one of the most delicate aspects of the program--the extension of contracts with the Norberto Odebrecht Company for the construction of Angra 2 and Angra 3--Magalhaes took a position identical with that of other authorities who appeared before the congressional investigation committee: Like Pilate, he washed his hands and threw the responsibility for the extension of contracts onto the shoulders of the board of Furnas.

We should point out that ELETROBRAS also should have given its opinion on this question. Magalhaes said that the broad of ELETROBRAS had been consulted on the extension of contracts, but we must point out that other ELETROBRAS board members denied Magalhaes' assertion. Denials are common in appearances before a congressional investigation committee. Nobody--current or former members of the government--beginning with current ELETROBRAS President Arnaldo Barbalho, wants to get involved in the "Odebrecht case." Documents signed by former Furnas Director Fernando Candeias, which were presented to the congressional investigation committee, proved that the Odebrecht Company had not demonstrated the technical or financial capacity to proceed with the ANGRA 1 project and suggested that either the contract be called off or the company's executives replaced.

The contract, however, was not canceled, but purely and simply extended, on extremely favorable terms, for the construction of the other two Angra plants. The reason? The Odebrecht Company had become a competent and efficient organization in 2 years, and the contracts could be extended under provisions of Decree-Law No 200 on the justification that it was a highly-specialized enterprise. According to the documents presented to the congressional investigation committee, that was definitely not the case with the Odebrecht Company. And even if it was a highly specialized enterprise, this company would hold a monopoly over the construction of nuclear plants in Brazil because the government would have to hand to this company all projects of this type, one after another. The least that we can say is that we are witnessing a typical case of protectionism and of an unjustifiable hold on the nuclear plant construction market. And we say so safely because the Odebrecht Company had no technical capacity, equipment or material for undertaking such a project at the time it signed the contracts. This was the case because the Odebrecht Company had to seek association with an FRG company in order to fulfill the contracts signed.

The statements made before the congressional investigation committee, we repeat, show the degree of irresponsibility with which public resources are being handled and with which extremely important decisions for the huge Angra dos Reis nuclear complex are being adopted. This has reached the point where nobody wants to assume responsibilities.

When the problem came to light we insisted that the nation's president should support, through the National Renewal Alliance, the work of the congressional investigation committee. The results obtained so far through this investigation show that the problem is much more serious and far reaching than expected, revealing the total lack of planning in the energy sector. We hope that President Geisel will proceed to adopt the urgent measures necessary to correct the errors which have come to light. Otherwise, all the work of the congressional investigation commission will not go beyond the testimony heard.

PRC MISSION SIGNS AGREEMENT ON STEEL PURCHASES

PY0401207 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Nov 78 p 14 PY

[Text] Brasilia--The PRC National Corporation for the Import of Minerals and Metals, the National Nonferrous Metals and Steel Council (CONSIDER) and the Brazilian Iron and Steel Corporation (SIDERBRAS) yesterday signed a letter of intent to sell Brazilian iron and steel products to the PRC in the next 5 years.

However, the type of products and the volume of exports is established only for the first 3 years, during which Brazil will sell the PRC 1.5 million tons of steel valued at approximately $500 million.

CONSIDER will be in charge of coordinating Brazilian iron and steel exports on the basis of agreements reached through direct talks between the Chinese corporation and both state-owned and private Brazilian enterprises.

The volume of exports will be established during the fourth quarter of the year preceding the year of shipment because the letter of intent leaves open the quantities and type of products to be traded during the final 2 years.

The first shipment of 500,000 tons will take place during the first quarter of 1979; the same will happen during the next 2 years.

SIDERBRAS Director of Coordination Marcello Fernandez, who represented the Brazilian state-owned "holding" [given in English] in the iron and steel sector during the negotiations with the PRC trade mission, reported that the state-owned enterprises best prepared to implement these exports are Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company (COSIPA), Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills (USIMINAS), Piratini and Bahia Iron and Steel Mills (USIBA).

Among the private iron and steel enterprises, the most eligible are Villares, Anhanguera, CIMETAL [expansion unknown], Mannesmann, Belgo Mineira, Guanabara Iron and Steel Company (COSIGUA), and COMPAVE [expansion unknown].

Together with the letter of intent sources released the following list of the main export products: semimanufactured products, medium and heavy angle irons [perfils], sheet steel, brackets, wire [fio maquina], U-shaped angle irons, iron bars, small-and medium-diameter pipes of carbon steel and special steels.

Marcelo Fernandez also reported that the samples of Chinese coal analyzed by SIDERBRAS proved to be of good quality, and it is possible that concrete agreements could be reached in this area.

The main stumbling block is the low loading-unloading capability of Chinese ports. However, the first large Chinese port will begin operating in 1981, making it possible to export coal to Brazilian markets.

Fernandez also indicated that China plans to sell its product at prices competitive with those of other countries which have shown interest in supplying Brazil with coal.

"China has approximately 10 million tons of oil available for export at this point," PRC Ambassador Chang Te-chun stated yesterday after signing the letter of intent to sell Brazilian steel to the PRC.

The ambassador--the only one among the Chinese to wear a Mao-style jacket--stated that the visit which Minister Shigeaki Ueki paid to his country and the purchase of Brazilian steel by the PRC Government "mark a high point in trade relations between the two countries."

He added that "we know that Minister Shigeaki Ueki is in China but we cannot confirm the quantity of oil he might purchase. We believe that trade between the two countries has become viable."

With regard to the volume of steel which the Chinese plan to purchase from Brazil--1.5 million tons in 3 years--Ambassador Chang laconically stated that "it is a good beginning." Asked about the Chinese need for steel, he said "it is very great," without adding any further details.

The ambassador believes that the next step in the negotiations will be the opening of new lines of trade between the two nations.

Industries and Commerce Ministry Secretary General Lycio de Faria said that the total cost of the steel purchased by the Chinese would depend on the different types of steel which will be purchased by Peking, and therefore the volume of trade might be greater than that agreed upon with the Chinese mission.

The trade will involve both the Brazilian Government and private enterprises. "Each of these enterprises will make direct contact with the PRC by means of the appropriate bodies of the Brazilian Government," stated the secretary general of the Industries and Commerce Ministry.

According to Annex I of the letter of intent, these will be the iron and steel products which will be exported by Brazil: semimanufactured products, special steel, carbon steel pipes, medium and thick steel sheets, angle iron, beams, brackets, wires, iron bars and rods for construction.

The letter of intent was signed by Chen Wen-tung; Lycio de Farias, secretary general of the Industries and Commerce Ministry; Marcelo Fernandes, SIDERBRAS commercial director; Miguel Boholets, for CONSIDER; and Gen Mario Gomes of the Brazilian Iron and Steel Institute (IBS).

This is the text of the letter of intent signed by Brazil and the PRC at the Chinese Embassy:

"The Chinese mission headed by Chen Wen-tung, deputy director general of the National Corporation for the Import of Minerals and Metals, has discussed with CONSIDER, SIDERBRAS and their subsidiary companies and the Brazilian Iron and Steel Institute and some of the private companies which are members of this institute the sale of Brazilian steel to the PRC during the next 5 years.

"Taking into account the development possibilities of commercial relations between the two countries and the opportunities they offer. the Industries and Commerce Ministry proposes to coordinate Brazilian exports through CONSIDER.

"The annual volume will be established during the fourth quarter of the prior year and the negotiations and the discussion of specifications and quantities will be held on a case-by-case basis. SIDERBRAS will make all possible efforts to increase the quantity of iron and steel products exported to China."

COMMUNIST LEADER URGES PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR MDB

PY061755Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Nov 78 p 2 PY

[Text of note issued by Brazilian Communist leader Luis Carlos Prestes in Paris on 3 November]

[Text] The people are invited to vote on 15 November. This date will be very important for the political life of the country.

In view of this we address all democrats and patriots urging them to vote en masse for the candidates of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] for the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, and the state legislative assemblies. The idea is to elect men and women capable of shaping, within federal and state legislative bodies, democratic blocs which could help advance the cause of democracy within our country, with the aid of the people.

A large number of favorable votes will allow the MDB to emerge from the electoral struggle with added strength and a clearly-defined and united front capable of resisting and struggling against the arbitrary regime.

We are well aware that the electoral system imposed on the nation by the 1964 coup d'etat is restrictive and has obstructed free expression of the masses in the election and the circulation of the political literature of their candidates. We also understand that the various elections which have taken place after the installation of the military regime, stemming from the 1964 coup d'etat, have not been concessions granted by the regime. These elections have been the people's gains which the people have used for the past 14 years to express their disagreement with the arbitrary situation imposed on the country.

On 15 November millions of Brazilians will have a new opportunity to protest against the hunger, misery, terror, arbitrariness and corruption which have been prevailing in Brazil since 1964, by voting against the candidates of the regime, and by choosing men and women committed to the desires of the immense majority of our people who want to attain a regime based on broad democratic freedoms.

The defeat of the National Renewal Alliance could mean a blow to the new regime, a blow capable of rocking it and promoting unity of democratic forces.

However, our call is aimed at broader objectives. It will not be enough to vote for the MDB to guarantee the victory of the broad opposition front in the 15 November elections. It is also necessary for all democrats to join forces and organize themselves to defend the result of the elections, and to demand from the persons elected total loyalty to the commitments they will undertake before the people.

The unity of all those interested in the struggle for freedom and democracy in the country--irrespective of their religious, political or philosophical beliefs--is essential to attain a popular victory in the coming elections.

Our call also includes the military. Let them join forces with the democratic sectors of the country, massively voting for the MDB to guarantee the victory of the broad opposition front on 15 November.

Let us join forces to inflict yet another defeat on the dictatorship. Let us encourage the unity of all patriots who oppose arbitrariness and struggle for democratic freedoms so that our people can have a future of progress and well-being.

Let us all vote for a free and democratic Brazil.

ARMY DISMANTLES EPL URBAN GUERRILLA GROUP

PA050243Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2258 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 4 Nov (LATIN)--The Colombian Army has broken up an important group of urban guerrillas and is carrying out an intense intelligence operation against subversive elements operating in this capital, it was officially announced here today. At a news conference held today, Gen Miguel Vega Uribe, commander of the Military Institutes Brigade (BIM) stationed in Bogota, displayed the material seized in 28 raids carried out last month. The operations were carried out against the self-styled Popular Liberation Army's (EPL) Pedro Leon Arboleda (PLA) Command, which operates in the cities.

Vega said that 103 persons were arrested, of which 42 were released after questioning and 31 at a later date. Thirty persons remain in Bogota's prisons under arrest warrants issued by military judges. These persons are charged with being PLA members.

Seized in the various raids were pistols; the signets [sellos] of establishments attacked by the guerrillas in September, including notary offices, banks and other public offices; 157 personal identification documents; dynamite; G-3 rifle ammunition; uniforms; and much subversive propaganda. The printed material includes propaganda from the PLA, the M-19 subversive group, the Castroite National Liberation Army (ELN) and what is believed to be a new group which calls itself "Workers Self-Defense Movement" (MAO). According to reports, the MAO is made up of PLA members and, because of this, follows the guidelines of the Chinese Communist trend.

The MAO group murdered former Minister Rafael Pardo Buelvas in his home but General Vega said that none of the arrested persons were involved in the crime. The badge of a policeman murdered by the PLA last September and the cap of a private guard killed in a MAO robbery were also found.

Vega displayed several manuals of the liquidated Uruguayan Tupamaro group. In one of the manuals guerrillas are taught how to evade charges presented against them in case of arrest and how to confuse [desorientar] the rulings of judges.

Vega said that the PLA was implementing a well-planned blackmail and terrorism program in September.

Most of those arrested are students of the National University, Rosario University, Inca University and Marroquin High School.

Vega emphatically denied that the prisoners had been tortured. He rejected charges by leftist groups in this regard which led President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala to ask the attorney general's office to investigate the matter. Vega said that as soon as the guerrillas were arrested they were arraigned before the judges who will investigate their cases and present their findings to the military courts for trial.

The guerrillas apparently planned several kidnapings because in their possession were found several documents stolen from notary offices in which the economic status of future victims had been determined. A complete list of newsmen working for newspapers, radio stations and international news agencies was also found. Although General Vega said that it was a list of future victims, the newsmen present believed that it was to be used for the dissemination of messages and communiques on subversive activities. The list included the work schedules of several of the newsmen listed.

Vega said that the B-2 military intelligence group's activities are continuing and that new operations will be carried out during the coming months. He said that the PLA members believe in attacks against individuals as a means of warfare.

He refused to give more details in this regard because he said that several matters related to these activities are either part of the findings of the investigations against the guerrillas or intelligence information which is being used.

SANDINIST REFUGEES ARRIVE AT SAN ANDRES ISLAND

PA061710Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1407 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Andres Island, Colombia, 6 Nov (AFP)--Ten Sandinist refugees arrived last night on this island in the Caribbean under strict security measures, the police reported today. A source said that the Sandinists were brought by plane from Managua, where they had taken refuge at the Colombian Embassy. All of them are young, ranging in age from 16 to 23. They are part of the second group that has legally taken asylum in Colombia.

Their names are: Winston Ayerbe Lopez, Vladimir Castellon Zamora, Bayardo Rodriguez Ruiz, Camilo Antonio Correa Mejia, Omar Puglio Morales Camacho, Sergio Blandon Ibana, Adolfo Huete Chavarria, Jose Salvador Herrera, Oscar Herrera Molina and Fabio Guevara Gutierrez. Authorities said that the Sandinists will be taken within the next few days to Bogota, the Colombian capital.

HOUSE APPROVES MARINE TREATIES WITH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PA070213Y Bogota Cadena Radio Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The House of Representatives tonight approved the treaties signed by Colombia with the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which define their marine and submarine areas.

Representative Ricardo Barrios Zuloaga, who submitted the treaties to the house, said that these traties had been the work of the previous government and that it was up to the current administration to define the marine and submarine areas with Venezuela and Nicaragua.

BRIEFS

ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION COUNCIL--President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today installed the National Council of Administrative Decentralization, which will advise the president on measures aimed at decentralizing the executive's political power by transferring a number of powers to governors and intendants. The council is composed of the president, the government, finance and agriculture ministers, the director of the administrative department of national territories, the legal secretary of the presidency and the secretary of public administration. [Bogota Cadena Radio Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Nov 78 PA]

DEFENSE FRONT DENOUNCES PERUVIAN 'PROVOCATIONS'

PA061850Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Guayaquil--The Ecuadorean Territorial Defense Front, which is headed by former Ambassador Pericles Gallegos, has firmly condemned the policy of provocation undertaken by the Peruvian Government in threatening Ecuador in order to distract Peruvians from their serious economic crisis. The front held a meeting in Guayaquil yesterday under Vice President Sergio Lima to analyze the charge of violation of Ecuadorean airspace on 2 and 3 November when Peruvian military planes suspiciously overflew the area of Chacras. This action is added to violations of Ecuadorean waters in previous months.

Further Details

PA060005Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 5 Nov (EFE)--Quito's EL COMERCIO today carries a report from the southern Oro Province regarding alleged violations of Ecuadorean territory by Peruvian Air Force planes.

According to the newspaper, which quotes as its source a correspondent of EL NACIONAL in Machala at the Chacras border town, the Peruvian planes invaded Ecuadorean airspace on two occasions: last Thursday at 1500 and the following day, Friday, at 1300.

During the second incursion, the Peruvian planes, flying at low altitude, penetrated "approximately some 300 meters" into Chacras, the newspaper said.

So far the report on the alleged incursions by Peruvian reconnaissance aircraft has been neither confirmed nor denied by the Ecuadorean Government.

COMMUNIST PARTY WANTS INVESTIGATION INTO BRIBERY CHARGE

PA041627Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0451 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 3 Nov (EFE)--The Communist Party of Ecuador has asked the government to conduct an immediate investigation into charges made by a U.S. paper which were reproduced by the local news media, that former Natural Resources Minister Gen Jaime Duenas (ret) was allegedly bribed.

The charge by the Dallas TIMES HERALD on 17 August was made on the basis of findings of a U.S. congressional committee investigating certain payments made by the OKC [not further identified] firm to Duenas, who was minister in 1975.

The Communist Party, legally recognized under the name of the Popular Democratic Union, is interested in making known the amount received by Duenas and the reasons for the payments.

The former minister has responded to the news story by issuing a press communique stating that he received the payments in his capacity as an official of the U.S. company. Duenas also asserted that he began working for OKC in September 1976, that is, 9 months after he ceased being minister and serving on active duty in the armed forces.

The OKC is one of the U.S. oil companies with investments in Ecuador.

ROYO URGES CHILE, ARGENTINA TO REACH PEACEFUL SOLUTION

PA030408Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Nov 78 PA

[Telegram from Panamanian President Royo to Argentine President Videla and Chilean President Pinochet; date not given]

[Text] Panama, which has always favored the peaceful settlement of disputes, hopes that at this historic moment both fraternal nations will be able to settle their differences through the juridical instrument of international law. This is the desire of the people and government which I represent.

Affectionately yours, Dr Aristides Royo, president of the Republic of Panama

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY ORGANIZERS OUTLINE PLANS

PA032332Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 1 Nov 78 p 6A PA

[Text] The directors of the newspapers published by Editora Renovacion and columnists and editors working for MATUTINO, CRITICA and LA REPUBLICA attended a meeting yesterday sponsored by Alberto Luis Tunon, general manager of the firm, who was accompanied by the firm's adviser, Modesto Justiniani, during a debate with the organizers of the new revolutionary political party, Dr Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla and Ascanio Villalaz. The debate was held so that the press could have clear views, obtained through an honest dialog with the organizers of the new political party (Revolutionary Democratic Party), on the organizational bases, ideology, policies and other issues about which the public is concerned.

Gonzalez Revilla said the organizing team is consulting national groups, letting them serve as a guide for the commission in the complex task entrusted by General Torrijos. He said consultations are taking place with the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and with labor circles. This work is starting after the revolutionary process concluded the signing of the Torrijos-Carter treaty, and the democratic opening and the military's return to their garrisons were decreed.

The party appears to be a political instrument aimed at defending the accomplishments of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and a way to insure that the people are represented. The party will defend this concept, he said, and thus the current constitution.

Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla said various political parties will arise, some opposed to the current regime and others which want a new constituent assembly to be held. Gonzalez Revilla said the party will be profoundly democratic and that its current leadership is temporary until a national convention chooses its directors. A party assembly will also choose a committee to select community representatives following popular consultations with the communities so that the new party's formula of democratic participation will not turn out to be a matter of handpicking people. The individuals who are selected will be chosen by the registered party members.

Participation by the public employees will be strictly and completely voluntary and nobody will be persecuted for his political ideas. Registration in the party will be voluntary, thus allowing sincere people to be members. We are going to form a genuine party, which has never been done before in the republic, so that it will serve as a worthy example and guideline for the other parties. [paragraph continues]

However, the party will safeguard the principles of the revolutionary process.

Gonzalez Revilla said the work is complex because the revolutionary movement groups together all tendencies. We will insist that registration be on an individual basis so as not to accept groups. It is better to be disillusioned during the registration than at the polls.

The party will prepare a change of outlook for the new Panamanian man in the democratic and pluralist life which is going to begin in the country in the next few years. The party, he said, will be nationalistic and based on the specific accomplishments of the revolution. The political line to be followed will be inspired by General Torrijos in order to preclude bogging down the process with ideological definitions. All major party decisions will be made with popular support. The party will have an active vigilance policy to see that the canal program is carried out. We want a very nationality-conscious democratic society to be solidly formed by the year 2000.

Newsmen asked for further definitions in order to determine what the party will be like. Villalaz said a provisional project is being drawn up but the final platform will be approved at the national level and that it will also be defined at that level following General Torrijos' guidelines. The newsmen proposed some alternatives, but Ascanio Villalaz said we could not lock ourselves into an ideological definition.

Explanations were made of European and Spanish socialism in order to establish a framework for the political currents which influence American political parties.

It was also announced that party registration will begin possibly in January and its platform will be what General Torrijos outlined as the task and objective for the nation in the future. The promotion campaign will be based on consultations about what the people think should be done in this country. Included in the consultations will be management, labor, students, housewives and farmers.

It was noted that the basic issue is not the ideological definition but above all to organize a new political party which does not have to depend on the state's bureaucratic apparatus.

Another important aspect discussed was the financing of the new party, which will be made through contributions and financing from banks and other fund-raising activities.

Newsmen pointed out that the new party should adapt its strategies to the political situation in the country and forget rigid definitions divorced from the reality of the people.

The party organizers thanked newsmen for their contributions, clarifications, criticism, objections and constructive proposals and noted that they will continue their consultation work in order to outline the philosophy of the new organization.

BRIEFS

DEATH OF AMBASSADOR--Economist Ramon H. Jurado, Panama's current ambassador to Venezuela, died this afternoon aboard an Aeromexico plane. He was on his way from Panama City to Caracas to end his diplomatic mission by saying farewell to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, other officials and the diplomatic corps. [Panama City Televisors Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 Nov 78 PA]

BELIZE

PRICE DEFENDS MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

FL062035Y Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 29 Oct 78 pp 7, 8 FL

[Premier George Price statement to House of Representatives on public finances of Belize; date not given]

[Excerpts] Much has been made recently of the financial statement issued by government showing the performance in the first half of this year in the collection of revenue and in the expenditure of funds. On the one hand, government is charged publicly with having large sums of money set aside in some unspecified place which it refuses to spend; on the other hand, it is charged with being short of millions of dollars and unable to explain this shortage. Neither charge ir true.

I could charge, Mr. Speaker, that these erroneous reports emerge out of wicked and malicious minds, attempting to frustrate the efforts of government to carry out its development programme and to secure financial assistance for its hurricane rehabilitation programme, but I prefer to believe that they arise out of a misunderstanding of how government finances are managed. This administration has neither apology nor excuse to make for its management of public funds; its management has been described by the president of the Caribbean development banks as "competent and efficient." This administration has always and will continue to account for every cent of public revenue received and for every cent of public funds spent. This is how this government has arranged its constitution and rules of public finances.

Many ingredients go into the decisions which determine when and how a project will be tackled. Planning has to be done, economic and engineering studies must be completed, equipment has to be purchased, material and supplies very often must be ordered from abroad and so on. In the result, a project forseen during the budget exercise may take many months before ground is broken. So that, although money may be voted in December for a project in the following year, it is not always possible or practicable for work to commence in January or even in that year. These projections are also part of the budget exercise.

Add to this other restraints. Many projects in developing countries such as ours, are dependent on the responsiveness of external aid sources. These sources, with the best will and intention, have a responsibility to their own governments which often involve, in the supervision of loans and grants, studies and technical confirmations which invariably end in delays.

This shows itself in the budget, where an allocation is voted for a project contemplated by government but which is sometimes delayed for many months, for a variety of reasons (sometimes local and sometimes external) with the result that the funds allocated remain unspent until construction begins.

Rash Conclusions Versus Good Husbandry

Therefore, it is always dangerous, Mr. Speaker, to draw rash conclusions from a financial statement showing only a portion of the year's performance. Government's accounts are no different from those of any commercial undertaking in this respect. Who in this house has not received some goods from a store which he has put to use but for which the bill has not yet been received? Who has not done some work or performed some service for which he has not yet been paid? Interim accounts are merely a guide to the general overall performance of the administration from which danger signals can early be ascertained. [paragraph continues]

They are not, Mr Speaker, accurate accounts of every transaction which has taken place. They should not be misused to stir public alarm and to make groundless charges against government.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN VESSELS FISHING ILLEGALLY TO BE SEIZED AS OF JANUARY

PA041606Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0034 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria has announced that as of January, Costa Rica will seize any foreign boat fishing in Costa Rican waters without a license. The official had said some weeks ago that if no agreement was reached at the fishery meeting held in Tokyo last month, Costa Rica would immediately begin to seize any foreign fishing vessels that enter its water to catch tuna.

During an interview with ACAN-EFE today, he said that the decision will be implemented. He also noted that his ministry will prevent pirate fishing to the extent its resources allow, and that for this purpose it has acquired several gunboats. Echeverria said that the Costa Rican Government had assumed that no agreement would be reached at the meeting held in the Japanese capital at the end of last month for the purpose of modifying the structure of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (CIAT).

In the face of the situation, Costa Rica has reiterated its decision to leave this international organization. Echeverria said that during the middle of November, in December and, if necessary in January, there will be meetings here with Mexico and the United States for the purpose of coordinating the creation of a regional tuna organization. Those two countries and Costa Rica fully support the creation of a new regulating entity. Panama also supports its creation and Guatemala and El Salvador will be invited to participate in the meetings.

According to present plans, the new organization will issue fishing permits on a reciprocity basis; that is, the ships of any of these nations will be able to fish for tuna in the waters of the others, the exception being the United States which, since it does not have tuna, will have to pay for fishing licenses, a condition to which the United States has agreed.

According to the Costa Rican official, this country has proposed the issuing of a common license that would allow the United States to fish on the basis of the payment of fees to the respective nations. It has also proposed that license fees be uniform in order to prevent pirate from favoring the country that charges the lowest fee, thus avoiding the payment of the just amount in the event they are captured. [sentence as received] With the issuing of a single license, the northern power would avoid having to obtain several licenses and become involved in the burdensome bureaucratic steps.

Minister Echeverria was emphastic in pointing out that the countries not participating in the proposed agreement will have to pay fees and if their ships are caught without permits, they will be immediately seized and taken to court. The public security minister concluded by stating that Costa Rica is making efforts to secure a tuna quota of 22,000 tons for 1979 and that at this moment it is holding talks with foreign fishing companies to negotiate a partnership deal between them and national tuna companies in order to rapidly increase the resources of the Costa Rican fishing fleet.

IMPRISONED SANDINISTS DEMAND TRANSFER TO PANAMA

PA061405Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] In a letter sent to Radio Reloj, 18 Sandinists being held at the first precinct station state that if they are not released soon they will begin an indefinite hunger strike until they are transferred to Panama. They add that some of them need prompt medical attention. The Sandinist National Liberation Front members deny that the Sandinists who were arrested in Liberia have been deported to Panama as was recently reported.

PRESENCE OF GUERRILLAS IN NORTHERN REGION DENIED

PA061952Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1752 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 6 Nov (AFP)--Maj Rafael Artavia of the Costa Rican Civil Guard denied here today that Sandinist Front guerrillas are present in the region bordering with Nicaragua. The Interior Ministry has sent 350 men to the region during the past few days in view of charges about the presence of 700 guerrillas who are being trained on various ranches and in the mountains. Major Artavia, who is in command of the men stationed in the border region, said that they did not find any guerrillas "or evidence that leads us to suspect that anything unusual is occurring."

From another quarter, the Costa Rican Government has reported that six guerrillas captured last week in northern Costa Rica were deported to Panama yesterday afternoon aboard a Panamanian Air Force plane.

SECURITY MINISTER REPORTS ON LATEST GUERRILLA ARRESTS

PA062200Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] A total of 16 [as heard] Sandinists were arrested on Saturday and Sunday. The mopping-up operation will be continued in the border area. Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey now gives details about the capture of additional members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]:

[Begin recording] [Question in progress] ... was carrying out the mopping-up operation again in the northern zone. On Saturday, or rather on Friday, there was a report that six Sandinists were captured. How has the Civil Guard proceeded in this regard?

[Answer] We captured another 17 on Saturday and Sunday. They are on the way to San Jose. They were being held at the command post in Liberia. These 17 were taken prisoner at various places, some of them in Nicoya, others in the area of Upala and others in the Province of Guanacaste.

[Question] At what points on the border is the Civil Guard conducting this operation?

[Answer] All along the border and in the Province of Guanacaste, that is, everywhere we have been told of or have received complaints about guerrilla groups.

[Question] The Nicaraguan Government is still accusing Costa Rica of harboring and helping the Sandinists. What has been the Costa Rican Government's reply?

[Answer] The reply has been (?the same). We (?have been doing) everything possible to prevent Costa Rica from being used as a springboard to attack (?Nicaragua). [end recording]

BRIEFS

MALARIA CASES--Officials of the National Malaria Eradication Service have said that so far this year more than 155,000 persons have been examined and out of this figure 207 cases of malaria were discovered. They said that more than 50 of those cases were imported from other countries, particularly Nicaragua. They added that the most vulnerable area is the northern border region, where 60 cases were discovered. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Oct 78 p 36A PA]

EL SALVADOR

GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT TO ATTEND FAIR IN SAN SALVADOR

PA032156Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1810 GMT 3 Nov 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Nov (LATIN)--Guatemalan President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia will arrive in San Salvador on 12 November to attend the Guatemala day ceremonies at the eighth international fair, according to an official announcement made today. The organizing committee of the fair, which was inaugurated today, invited all the Central American presidents but so far only Lucas Garcia has confirmed his attendance.

FPL MURDERS TEXTILE INDUSTRIALIST

PA070109Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2238 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Santa Ana, El Salvador, 6 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Textile industrialist Roberto Saade and one of his employees known only as Santos were shot to death today, Monday, in this city 66 km west of San Salvador. Saade was the owner of the "Inca" sock factory, which experienced a number of labor problems more than a year ago. Guillermo Rivas, secretary general of the factory's union, was murdered in Colon Park by several unknown assailants more than 3 months ago. The clandestine Popular Liberation Forces [FPL], which left a flag with its initials on the industrialist's body, took credit for today's killing.

GUATEMALA

EIGHT KILLED IN CLASHES THROUGHOUT NATION

PA061715Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1504 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Executions and exchanges of gunfire in different parts of Guatemala yesterday, Sunday, left a toll of eight dead and seven wounded. In the eastern section of downtown Guatemala City, a cell of the clandestine People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) clashed with agents of the Police Combat Command (SWAT) in the early evening hours. It was reported that the leftist guerrillas were distributing subversive leaflets. A bystander was killed in the incident and one policeman and two civilians were seriously injured. The policeman sustained bullet wounds in the head and chest. In the evening, the EGP distributed propaganda in almost all the movie theaters in Guatemala City.

Meanwhile, judges in various places, both in the capital and the countryside, had to preside during the day over the legal identification processes to determine the identities of seven bodies which had been found. All of them were without identification and appeared to have been tortured before being shot to death.

Another act of violence was an exchange of gunfire in zone 8 of Guatemala City which occurred when secret service members refused to pay their bill at a bar. Two employees were wounded.

In Quezaltenango, to the west, two more persons were shot, ambushed by persons unknown.

Finally, it was reported that in zone 12 a high-powered bomb was discovered and disarmed less than 24 hours after another had been discovered.

BRIEFS

PRC TRADE MISSION'S VISIT--Guatemala City, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--A PRC trade mission began a 6-day visit today to negotiate the purchase of cotton. The mission is composed of Hao Chin-ching, Hun Ten-chuan, Chung Lun-mao and An Sin-hua, who represent the PRC textile corporation headquartered in Peking. On its arrival in Guatemala City, the mission met with the directors of the National Cotton Council. During the 1977-1978 agricultural period, Guatemala produced 618,000 bales of cotton, of which the PRC purchased 149,992 bales. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2159 GMT 3 Nov 78 PA]

HONDURAS

BUSINESS, LABOR LEADERS PLEASED OVER JUNTA SUPPORT

PA041921Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0309 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (AFP)--The military government junta headed by Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia met here today with the leaders of the private and labor sectors to analyze the national situation and the country's future. On leaving the meeting, Camilo Rivera Giron, president of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise, said that "the dialog held with the triumvirate revealed good prospects concerning the country's future development and the role of the various sectors in it." According to the business leader, the military government expressed support for free enterprise "and regarding this, the private sector will also endorse all initiatives aimed at promoting the nation's progress and welfare."

Meanwhile, Andres Victor Artiles, secretary general of the Confederation of Honduran Workers, described as "very positive" the dialog held with the government, which offered its support to the labor movement in its struggles to achieve better living and working standards.

REPORT ON NEW 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PA032352Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2157 GMT 3 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--Shortly before the approval of a new 5-year development plan with a $1 billion budget, the Honduran military triumvirate has eliminated agrarian reform as a "fundamental task," as was stressed in the plan which is about to end. In 1972, when the military led by Gen Oswaldo Lopez Arellano assumed power, the 1974-1978 development plan was drafted. As a result of the plan, the army gained great support from the popular sectors. They believed that the plan could modernize the nation's antiquated structures, particularly in the agricultural field.

The new plan soon to be approved centers its field of action on nutrition, human resources, environmental, agricultural, industrial and mining development and social progress activities.

Lopez Arellano's government, which partially implemented the plan by expropriating agricultural lands from U.S. banana companies and large landowners, fell in mid-1975. He was replaced by Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro, who completely halted the reforms begun by his predecessor.

Arturo Corleto, dismissed as economic planning director, has said that only a few days before the current national development plan expires, not even half of the outlined goals have been achieved.

BRIEFS

BCIE LOAN--Tegucigalpa, 3 Nov (AFP)--Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) has granted the Honduran Government a $9 million loan to finance the construction of a number of silos in the country's rural areas. The construction of the silos is part of a program conceived to stimulate production, create grain reserves and benefit the consumer through low and stable prices. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0322 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA]

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA MEETS WITH CABINET TO DISCUSS 1979 PROGRAMS

PA051723Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1611 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpts] President Somoza continued meeting with members of his cabinet and the national board of the Liberal Party over the weekend. During his work session with the cabinet, President Somoza discussed the planning of government programs for 1979.

Each minister submitted to the president some projects for 1979 which will be discussed for inclusion in the next budget. Next year, the president will place greater emphasis on educational and agricultural progress as well as all programs which benefit the large working masses. There will also be expansion of the work to reconstruct Managua and implementation of a plan to help the cities affected by the Sandino-communist hordes during the September events.

During the past few days, President Somoza has shown great work energy and an unceasing desire to continue providing his best service to the fatherland, his party and the National Guard.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS BUSINESS AID PROGRAM TO ENTIRE COUNTRY

PA061501Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1255 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] The Special Development Fund [FED] has extended to all of Nicaragua the small business program that has produced many beneficial results in Managua, in line with President Anastasio Somoza Debayle's objective of promoting socioeconomic growth.

The announcement was made by Alvaro Ramirez Otero, director of the small enterprise department of the FED. Ramirez explained that the necessary funds have been allocated to permit implementation of the program throughout the republic. Ramirez said that the government will provide aid to small businessmen who lost their property and their businesses during the September incidents in the cities of Masaya, Leon, Chinandega and Esteli.

To implement this program, all banks and financial institutions have been instructed to order their branches throughout the country to accept loan applications.

LIBERAL PARTY ANSWER TO FAO PROPOSAL TERMED 'CONCILIATORY'

PA070345Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0140 GMT 7 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 6 Nov (AFP)--The Nationalist Liberal Party today gave its official reply to the Nicaraguan political opposition that demanded President Somoza's resignation in order to appoint a provisional government.

Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Quintana and two other members of the Liberal Party commission which studied the opposition's proposal delivered the reply to the international mediators from three countries at U.S. Ambassador Mauricio Solaun's residence. [as received]

After delivering the document containing the Liberal Party's answer, Minister Quintana said that he could not disclose it contents. Nevertheless, he did say it was conciliatory.

When asked if the Liberal Party wants a political agreement with the opposition, he said no. The Liberals "are trying to establish peace in the country based on law," he added.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that the members of the Liberal Party have not accepted any of the Broad Opposition Front's (FAO) proposals and only guarantee that the 1981 general elections can be witnessed by international organizations.

Somoza personally said in a speech delivered Sunday that nothing will make him change his position to remain in power until the end of his term in 1981.

In the meantime, mediation seems to be facing serious obstacles as new violent incidents took place in different parts of the country. Five persons, including two soldiers, were killed when armed civilians, apparently Sandinists, attacked a military patrol near La Paz, 30 km south of Managua.

Shots were heard last night in five districts in Leon, 90 km west of Managua, the site of fierce armed clashes last September. Demonstrators from the opposition set off many bombs in these districts.

Eight Sandinists this morning held up a bank in downtown Leon and escaped with $60,000.

A police station in Managua's west side was bombed. One civilian was killed in the incident.

The newspaper EL CENTRO AMERICANO, which is published in Leon, today reported that all military headquarters and border posts are on the alert because of the rumor that an invasion force will attack the country at any moment.

SOCIALIST PARTY WITHDRAWS FROM OPPOSITION COALITION

PA062154Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1835 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 6 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Socialist Party today became the third group to withdraw from the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), which is committed to an effective democratic opening in Nicaragua.

Dr Julio Briceno, secretary general of the Socialist Party, said that the reasons for the party's withdrawal from the opposition coalition will be explained in an official communique to be released within the next few hours.

NEW PRESIDENT OF MILITARY COURT ASSUMES DUTIES

PA042242Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2112 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Yesterday, Col Ernesto Taleno Leiva began his duties as president of the military court investigating the September events. He replaces Col Efrain Santamaria, who has assumed his duties as commander of the 5th Company.

The military court formally recessed and will meet again as soon as the president of the court studies all the details of the process dealing with the crimes of attempting to disrupt public order and the security of the state.

The military investigative court is now composed of the following officers: chief member Col Ernesto Taleno Leiva, members Maj Constantino Mendieta (Ardoquia) and Maj Hugo Torres (Llaves) and military prosecutor Capt Oscar Soto Gonzalez.

So far in the approximately 2 months of the investigative process, several militarymen and civilians have appeared as witnesses. The military court has conducted on-the-spot inspections of the police stations that were attacked by terrorists during the September events.

The court was convened by Col Carlos Orlando Gutierrez, commander of the general headquarters, Campo de Marte.

Several civilians who were captured during the military operations aimed at protecting the lives of soldiers and government property have also testified. More than 30 persons being held at the Managua police headquarters were released after the court ruled that there was not sufficient cause for their imprisonment. The names of those persons were published in the main Managua newspapers.

Army spokesmen said that Col Taleno Leiva is meeting with the other court members to study the records of the process under the previous president. The court members have to thoroughly study the testimony of witnesses and other details before they meet formally to continue the investigations.

Col Taleno Leiva assumed his important post at 1000 on Wednesday. He immediately began to review the court records and issued the appropriate instructions. So far, the military investigative court has not indicted anyone. The process will continue until the events have been clarified, the court members said.

SOMOZA REPORTEDLY SEEKING ARCHBISHOP'S REPLACEMENT

PA062214Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Managua--Political, professional, civic and religious organizations in Managua have protested over what they describe as official manipulations directed at Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Jose Esteban Gonzalez, leader of the permanent human rights commission in Nicaragua and of the Social Christian Party, said that a document expressing mass support for the archbishop is being prepared and will be sent to Pope John Paul II on Monday. With this document, which will bear signatures from the most representative sectors of Nicaraguan society and the religious community, we will counteract the official campaign to obtain the appointment of a coadjutor to Monsignor Obando to replace him, Gonzalez added.

Somoza wants a coadjutor to Monsignor Obando to be appointed. His name is Leon Pallais Godoy. He would be coadjutor of the Managua archdiocese. This is a plot against our archbishop, whose honest attitude toward the abuses of General Somoza's government have won him the admiration of the citizens, who regard him as a true spiritual leader. However, this action is doomed to failure, Gonzalez remarked.

He added that a copy of the document under preparation will be sent to the papal secretary of state.

COLOMBIA GRANTS ASYLUM TO SISTER OF FSLN MEMBERS

PA032144Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2023 GMT 3 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)--The Colombian Embassy in Managua today granted diplomatic protection to Mrs Germania Ortega, who, along with her husband Noe Selva, requested asylum because they feel that their lives are in danger. Germania Ortega is the sister of Humberto and Daniel Ortega, leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. She was imprisoned after the September uprising, investigated and later released.

The Ortega Saavedra brothers, members of the Tertiary faction of the FSLN, are now in Costa Rica.

BRIEFS

ROAD CONSTRUCTION LOAN--The Central American Economic Integration Bank has authorized a loan of up to $11.7 million for the construction of the Acoyapa-San Carlos highway with a branch to San Miguelito in Nicaragua. The loan is for 15 years with a 5-year grace period at an interest rate of 8.75 percent. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0354 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA]

CUBANS IN MEXICO SUPPORT DIALOG PROPOSED BY CASTRO

FL041751Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City--Thirty Cubans who live in Mexico and were members of the committee for support of the 11th World Youth and Student Festival have supported the dialog with the Cuban community abroad proposed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State.

In an interview with PRENSA LATINA, they showed copies of a document they are going to send this week to the Cuban leader in which they also request to participate in the dialog proposed during his history press conference with journalists of the Cuban community abroad last September.

We Cubans who are members of this committee and have immigrated to this country for various reasons have a common denominator--our support for the Cuban revolution and, therefore, we organized to contribute to the youth event, not only because of its political importance but also to give a small gesture of solidarity with our country of origin, the document says. The festival, it adds, was a great experience because it showed us that we can work from abroad for internationalist causes and for development of the Cuban revolution.

These Cubans in Mexico add that at a time when an opportunity arises to restore ties with the Cuba of today, they are anxious to obtain the rights which the new constitution guarantees so as not to remain outside the revolutionary process. They also stressed the importance of the need for sons of Cubans or Cuban-Mexicans who live in the consumer society [words indistinct] establish ties with socialist Cuba. They agreed that most of the Cubans who live in Mexico want the dialog to become a reality and urged the Cuban community in other countries to give its most resolute support because such a dialog provides the opportunity for reunification with the Cuban fatherland and family. Such a desire to establish the ties that had been lost with the fatherland cannot be obstructed by terrorist elements which today represent an insignificant minority in the face of the majority force of Cubans abroad who want family reunification, they said. The group, which was formed 18 months ago to support the World Youth and Student Festival held in Havana, Cuba, in July, plans to form an organization of Cuban emigres in Mexico to continue with actions in support of the Cuban revolution and to disseminate its achievements. Sons of Cuban-Mexican families will be able to join this organization.

DOCUMENT REVEALS CANECUTTERS' WAGE SCALE

FL032107Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2033 GMT 3 Nov 78 FL

[Text] State Committee for Labor and Social Security Resolution 233 on the 1978-79 and 1979-80 sugar harvests contains the rules for manual and mechanized cutting. Each manual cutting brigade must have a chief who is in charge of organizing the work, coordinating transportation, maintaining discipline, working on payments and controlling work in accordance with the established method.

When the integration of brigades is not feasible, groups can be formed of no less than eight canecutters, one of whom will be chief. Each brigade or group will have one or two persons responsible for maintaining statistics when daily production exceeds 20,000 arrobas or when the brigade is divided to open two cutting fronts as required by the harvest.

State Committee for Labor and Social Security Resolution 233 also refers to pay standards and rates for manual cutting with manual or mechanized lifting of the sugarcane as contained in the established catalog.

Workers in manual brigades or groups will receive pay according to the work position they hold for the work they do. The wages that will serve as the basis for the estimates of the different types or forms of pay will be as follows: Brigade chief, burner (candelero) and cutter of burned sugarcane, 5.36 pesos; manual cutter of green sugarcane and the person who maintains statistics on this manual cutting, 4.64 pesos; and burner's assistant, 4.00 pesos. [figures as heard]

ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED TO SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

FL021927Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Nov 78 FL

[Text] The contingent of Cuban internationalists and technicians in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe are developing a plan of intensive assistance to that young African nation in the economic and social sectors for the 1977-78 period at the request of that government. At the present time, Cuban doctors and public health technicians are participating in the plans for massive and free medical attention to the population implemented by the government following achievement of independence from Portuguese colonialism which lasted 500 years. As an interesting statistic, it should be pointed out that there were only seven national doctors in Sao Tome in 1975 as a result of colonialism.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES CEMA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY DELEGATES

FL041740Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with the chiefs of delegations that participated in the 53d meeting of the CEMA commission for the chemical industry that was held in this capital. [Carlos Martin Zarzamendi], adviser to the vice president, and Rogelio Montenegros, permanent secretary for CEMA affairs, attended the meeting for the Cuban side. During the meeting, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez expressed satisfaction with the meeting's results, which he described as successful.

53d CEMA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MEETING CONCLUDES

FL041814Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Nov 78 FL

[Text] The 53d meeting of the CEMA permanent commission for the chemical industry held in Havana City since Monday has concluded with the signing of a protocol by the chiefs of delegations from the 10 [as heard] participating countries. The meeting was attended by ministers of the chemical industry and other top officials of the Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Vietnam and Cuba.

VALDES MENENDEZ RECEIVES IRAQI INDUSTRY DEPUTY MINISTER

FL062106Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 6 Nov 78 FL

[Text] Ramiro Valdes Menendez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today received Qasim al-'Uraybi, deputy minister of industry and minerals of the Republic of Iraq. In a fraternal atmosphere, the two officials exchanged opinions on matters of interest to the governments of Cuba and Iraq.

BARBADOS

CONTROLS ON TRADE WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES LIFTED

FL042025Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Oct 78 p 1 FL

[By Avonda Burrowes]

[Text] The Barbados Government has removed trade controls which imposed limits on its trade with communist countries in an effort to expand and increase opportunities with these countries.

And External Affairs Minister Mr Henry Forde said yesterday that this move was both consistent with the evolution of this island's external policy and of benefit to its trading interests.

Addressing the annual general meeting of the Barbados Manufacturers' Association (BMA), Mr Forde said that the communist states accounted for an insignificant amount of our trade at present but were an important potential market.

And he hoped that the BMA would take advantage of the enhanced possibilities of trade.

"Escalation of protectionist tendencies would seriosly impede the development of non-industrialised countries like ourselves. Efforts therefore at the national and international levels evidently will have to be conceived to arrest the trend toward protectionism."

"The government is conscious of the need to find new markets for our exports and has established diplomatic relations with a number of non-traditional countries, such as the People's Republic of China, Romania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia."

Mr Forde added that Barbados' relations with these countries was formerly inspired by the politics of ideological fear.

"Matters of ideology did not prevent the USA from affecting a rapprochement with the People's Republic of China, broadening its trade relations with communist countries or turning towards Cuba when they realised that it was in their fundamental economic interest to do so. So we must be courageous enough to throw off old notions of expected behaviour and take cognizance of international economic realities."

"...It sometimes seems as if we are inconsistent in our foreign policy. However, we are motivated not only by trade or economic interests. There are also at times higher foreign policy considerations that have to be taken into account. We have to temper pragmatism with principles. For more than two decades we have expressed our profound concern over racial injustice in southern Africa."

The external affairs minister added that Barbados has repeatedly made it clear that it could not and will not be indifferent to racial policies which violate our national ideals and constitute an affront to all justice-loving peoples.

Mr Forde announced that he has accepted in principle the proposal that Ontario promote Barbados rum in that province provided this country accepts exports of Ontario wine.

He told the BMA members that he would welcome their views on this matter so that he can get back to the Ontario government "for follow up."

Mr Forde said that Barbados was not antagonistic toward multinational corporations. Even if they operate in their own interest a portion of the benefits accrue to the host country, he added.

"More than one-fifth of the world trade is presently accounted for by the internal transactions of multinational corporations. They have made and can contribute to make enormous contributions to investment and the transfer of technology in a developing country like Barbados."

HAITI

PRESIDENT DUVALIER MAKES IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT CHANGES

PA041402Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0436 GMT 4 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 3 Nov (AFP)--It has been learned here that Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier today made here important ministerial changes and created four new cabinet posts. The new posts are planning, mines and energy resources, an under secretariat of state for information and coordination and an under secretariat of state for public health. Nine new ministers were appointed while six members of the previous cabinet lost their posts. Interior and National Defense Minister Aurelien Jeanty was replaced by Achille Salvant, while Foreign Minister Edner Brutus was replaced by Gerard Dorcely.

JAMAICA

PATH CLEAR FOR INCREASED TRADE WITH CUBA

FL031535Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Nov 78 p 19 FL

[Text] A Jamaican trade delegation has returned from a seven-day visit to Cuba that has cleared the way for increased trading links between the two countries.

The 12-member mission was led by Mr Ainsley Henriques, managing director of Jamaica Export Trading Company (JETCO), and included representatives of both public and private sectors. It met and had "frank discussions" with the Cuban import and export enterprises, the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Jamaican Embassy in Cuba.

Arising out of the visit, technical sales personnel from Jamaica will be making visits to Cuba, while representatives of the Cuban import and export enterprises will visit Jamaica to look at local enterprises in the near future.

Out of these follow-up contacts it is expected that orders will be taken resulting in the movement of goods between both countries. "The potential for trade is good," Mr Henriques said. "I am confident that the work achieved in Havana will result in positive economic gain for both our economies."

The mission was a follow up to a trade protocol signed by the Cuba-Jamaica mixed commission in June. Mr Henriques described the talks as "very fruitful." He said both sides had an opportunity to measure the methods of trad and the products available from both countries."

JPL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN URGES PNP TO POSTPONE BYELECTIONS

FI 61800Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Nov 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] The deputy chairman of the Jamaica Labour Party [JLP], Dr Percy Broderick, yesterday called on the chairman of the PNP [People's National Party], the Hon Howard Cooke, to have his party reconsider the holding of four important by-elections until the matter of electoral reforms become law. In a telegram to Mr Cooke, Dr Broderick said that the announcement to go on with the by-elections in view of the recent resolutions in parliament and especially the motion now on the order paper by the deputy prime minister "makes a farce of any meaningful debate of the matter in future."